Canada Innovates

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DRAGONS' DEN HOST ARLENE DICKINSON DISHES ON HOW CANADA CAN BETTER SUPPORT ITS INVENTORS PAGE 6

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This young trailblazer is ONE TO WATCH

Diana Idibe, 16, of London, shows off the London Police Service's Lewis Coray Trailblazer Award on Thursday to mark Black History Month. Diana is a Grade 11 student at Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School and received the award, in part, for being a leader among her classmates, officials said. The award was created in partnership with the Congress of Black Women to honour retired Sgt. Lewis Coray, London's first black police officer. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

'Great for London': New player coming to the core

Fanshawe. College provides update on downtown campus set to open in September

ANGELA MULLINS
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Here come the kids and here comes the cash: Downtown London is about to get a dramatic facelift.

Fanshawe College's new campus is as much about transforming the city as it is offering more to students, leaders say.

With slightly more than 1,000 students roaming the streets when the last nail is hammered in, the campus is expected to contribute $80 million a year into the downtown economy, Fanshawe president Howard Rundle said.

"It's really (about) sharing," Gary Lima, Fanshawe's dean of arts, media and design, said at a news conference on Thursday at Covent Garden Market. "And the more we share, the (better) it is for everybody."

The centre for digital and performance arts is slated to open in September, and officials have been connecting with companies such as Digital Extremes and groups such as the Grand Theatre. Expected to house about 400 students in the first year, it could eventually attract students from across North America, pumping out talent ready to do top-notch work for local companies.

All that energy and creativity combined with state-of-the-art classrooms could improve London's profile in the digital and performance worlds — a win for everyone involved.

"We're going to have really good programs, we're going to have really good partnerships ... we're going to have a great facility," Lima said. "When it all combines, I just think it's great for London."

Housed in what will soon be a fully renovated building at 137 Dundas St., the centre is expected to be the first arm of a larger, $40-million downtown campus. Officials are still shopping, Rundle said, for "two or three" more sites to launch programs under an applied- and performing-arts umbrella.

City officials have dedicated $20 million to help Fanshawe buy and rehabilitate old buildings. Fanshawe is pulling $6 million to $7 million from its capital reserves, the province is kicking in $6 million and the college is counting on donors for the rest.

Finding the right buildings without "paying excessively" for them has proven tricky, Rundle said. "Not every building is suitable. Some of these older buildings, it would cost more to bring them up to code than it would to rip them down and start over."

The big picture

- Fanshawe College's centre for digital and performance arts will feature glass facades, a black-box theatre and a costume-design studio.
- Most of the programs, including 3-D animation, will be moved from the main campus.
- Two new programs will be offered: Theatre arts technical production and costume design for theatre.

NEWS 1

Three teenagers charged in theft with samurai sword

South London. Masked males fled Twice the Deal Pizza with undisclosed amount of cash: Cops

JOHN MATISZ
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Police have laid a total of 14 charges against three youth in a south London robbery that involved a samurai sword.

On Feb. 14 at 10:52 p.m., three masked assailants entered Twice the Deal Pizza at 99 Belmont Dr. When they demanded cash, one of them showed a samurai sword while another whipped out a hunting knife.

They fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash prior to police arrival.

A few hours later, at around 2:50 a.m., one of the suspects was caught attempting to break into a vehicle parked in the same area as the pizza joint, police said. He was apprehended by the owner of the car and arrested shortly after.

Following further investigation, the other suspects were arrested as well.

Const. Ken Steeves of the London Police Service said the teen suspects did not specifically target Twice the Deal and its employees. Instead, the restaurant holdup is being considered a "crime of opportunity."

Steeves also used the word "opportunity" when speaking about the unusual weapon choice of a samurai sword.

"Oftentimes when people commit robberies, they use weapons of opportunity," he said. "We've seen people use kitchen knives, clubs and rocks."

Two males, 17 and 15, have each been charged with two counts of robbery, two counts of uttering death threats, disguise with intent, and possession of a dangerous weapon. A 14-year-old male has been charged with robbery and disguise with intent.

Quoted

"This was an isolated incident involving a samurai sword. We have seized it, and it will not be used in a crime again."

Const. Ken Steeves, London Police Service

Touting sustainable-energy success stories around London

Paul van der Werf, left, chair of the Mayor's Sustainable Energy Council, and Mayor Joe Fontana unveil the first edition of a magazine highlighting sustainable-energy projects on Thursday at city hall. Dubbed Celebrating Progress — Sustainable Energy London, the publication will be available around the city and online at london.ca. The magazine features sustainable-energy success stories from more than 25 organizations. Officials hope to publish annually or at least every other year. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Mayor comfortable with his charity's actions

Mayor Joe Fontana defended the non-profit he chairs Thursday amid reports the Canada Revenue Agency will yank its charitable status next month.

"I sleep well at night knowing full well that, you know, we're doing some very, very good things," the mayor said.

Fontana confirmed that Trinity Global Support Foundation lawyers are requesting the federal agency's plans be put on hold while they prepare a defence.

Trinity Global — which runs programs ranging from those that provide breakfast to kids to those that ship HIV-AIDS medication overseas — has been linked to a tax shelter investigated by the CRA.

Tax receipts

Trinity Global issued $152 million in tax receipts last year compared to $70.8 million in 2011 and $18.2 million in 2010.

Several other charities involved with the shelter have had their charitable status revoked. In at least one case, an audit found tax receipts were "grossly inflated" compared to the value of donations, according to the revenue agency.

Officials at Trinity Global and the CRA have a "difference of opinion," the mayor said.

"We are not a tax shelter," he said. "We are a foundation with charitable status, and, therefore, we issue receipts based on the generosity of people who give us either cash or goods in-kind that they want to donate to help other people."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Rock and/or roll. London listed as stop for Kiss tour

Will Londoners rock all night and party every day this summer? Well, they will July 25, according to Gene Simmons' website (genesimmons.com).

London is among the many stops listed on the Kiss bassist's site in a tour that runs from June to October. The Forest City date follows Winnipeg on July 22 and precedes a July 26 concert in either Hamilton or "Ottowa" (sic).

No venues are listed for the tour. An official with Budweiser Gardens would not confirm or deny a Kiss concert in London.

JIM REYNO/METRO

Gene Simmons
GETTY IMAGES FOR RELATIVITY MEDIA

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Oakville, Mississauga. More documents found on cancelled gas plants

Ontario's opposition parties were outraged Thursday after the government announced dozens more documents had been unearthed on two cancelled gas plants, months after the Liberals repeatedly insisted they had all been released.

"I want to know from this premier why anybody in Ontario should have any trust whatsoever in any Liberal in this province," demanded NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

Andrea Horwath THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was the third batch of gas-plant documents and the second time the Liberals have been forced to admit they were wrong when they claimed to have publicly released all the relevant pages ordered by a legislative committee.

"My stomach feels sick over this, that this has happened in our province," said Progressive Conservative energy critic Vic Fedeli.

The government was being sincere when it told the legislature several times last fall that all the relevant documents requested by a legislative committee had been released, said Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli.

"We took the initiative when we found out about these documents to release them of our own volition," said Chiarelli.

The Tories and NDP have said for months they were convinced the Liberals were still hiding documents on the cancellations of the energy projects in Mississauga and Oakville, which cost taxpayers at least $230 million.

They've accused the Liberals of cancelling the plants to save seats in the face of local opposition to the projects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Awareness. Coldest Night of the Year ready for walk

The name of an annual charity walk, Coldest Night of the Year, isn't supposed to be taken factually. But its purpose is.

"It isn't always the coldest night of the year, literally, but it's so fantastic to see everyone wearing their blue toques and walking in solidarity," said Kara James, communications manager for Mission Services of London.

Starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday, hundreds will walk five to 10 kilometres through London's core with the less fortunate in their thoughts.

"It's a great way for people to step into the shoes of those who struggle with homelessness and poverty," James said. "There are lots and lots of people in this city right now who won't or can't get into shelter beds. They're sleeping under a bridge every night."

Nationally, the fundraiser is in its third year. London was introduced to it last year, raising more than $50,000. Organizers hope to hit the $60,000 mark this time around.

Proceeds help fund Mission Services of London's mental-health programs, meals and operational expenses.

Those interested in participating are asked to meet at Trinity Lutheran Church at 746 Colborne St. at 4 p.m. Saturday for registration, or to sign up online at coldestnightoftheyear.org/location/london.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

$165K

Arts groups get federal dollars

Four local arts groups are getting a combined $165,000 from the federal government.

The money comes from the Canada Arts Presentation Fund and will help groups carry out a variety of theatre and music programs.

Aeolian Hall and the Grand Theatre will see $40,000 each. The Fringe Theatre Festival is getting $25,000, and $60,000 will go to Sunfest. METRO

Three counts of fraud

Reno company owner charged

A London business owner has been charged with three counts of fraud not exceeding $5,000.

David Sjaarda, 45, owner of General Building Products, was investigated for business practices from September 2012 to this past January.

Police allege the company received deposits for renovation jobs but did not follow through with the bulk of the promised work. METRO

Western University students and leaders of the school's Alternative Spring Break program are pictured Wednesday after a volunteer shift at Youth Opportunities Unlimited's recycling and woodworking shop (3334 White Oak Rd.). ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Taking community over cocktails

The break less travelled. Western students take different tack on spring-break adventures

ANGELA MULLINS
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Nearly 200 Western University students have turned spring break into anything but an all-inclusive week on the beach.

They're actually learning over the holiday — digging their noses into community service instead of books.

Some have travelled to far-away places like Belize and Argentina, taking on work in health clinics and schools. Others have stayed closer to home, with a group of eight spending the week at Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU).

There, students have been working in a recycling centre and woodworking shop, making ornaments that will be attached to gift baskets sold during the World Figure Skating Championships.

They'll venture onto downtown streets Friday and Saturday, rallying donations for YOU, a London non-profit that provides transitional housing, jobs-skills training and other services to at-risk youth.

For international student Alice Zeng, 19, it's been the opportunity of a lifetime, something she wouldn't have a chance to experience at home in China.

"This is pretty much out of our comfort zone," Zeng said. "These things are out of our routine, but they are meaningful."

Zeng and others secured their community-service spots through Western's Alternative Spring Break initiative.

Spots are competitive, leaders said, with the number of students applying on the rise year after year.

After each volunteer shift, participants have a team meeting and talk about how the experience has changed them or the communities they work in.

Started in 2002, the program is a joint initiative of the university's housing department and student success centre.

Globetrotters

Students in the Alternative Spring Break program have took on projects this week in:

- Winnipeg
- New Orleans
- Dominican Republic
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Belize
- Peru

Canadian Club hosts Beeston luncheon

Western University alumnus Paul Beeston, president and CEO of the Toronto Blue Jays and Rogers Centre, will be speaking to members and guests of the Canadian Club of London on Monday at the Hilton, as part of the Speaker Series Luncheon.

On May 10, 1976, Beeston was the first employee of the Toronto Blue Jays. Since then, he has risen through the ranks of the organization, becoming vice-president of business operations, executive business vice-president, president and chief operating officer and CEO in 1991. In 2009, Beeston was appointed president and CEO of the Toronto Blue Jays and Rogers Centre.

From 1997 until 2002, he was also president and chief operating officer of Major League Baseball.

Beeston has been named Canadian Baseball Man of the Year and is a member of the Order of Canada. He was also inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

This instalment of the Speaker Series Luncheon runs from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tickets are available through canadiancluboflondon.ca or by calling 1-855-519-2265.

JIM REYNO/METRO

Paul Beeston THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lightning still rolling with home win

London Lightning forward Tim Ellis attempts a fade-away jumper over Windsor Express guard Victor Morris during the first quarter of a National Basketball League of Canada game at Budweiser Gardens on Thursday. The Lightning won the match by a score of 99-92, improving their record to 28-4 on the season. London plays at home again on Saturday in a battle versus the Summerside Storm. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Knights want to send message to OHL: Max Domi

Game face. London has been in the first overall spot for the bulk of the season

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

London Knights forward Kyle Platzer, front, hustles through a neutral-zone drill during practice at the Western Fair Sports Centre on Thursday.
JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Even without the help of a psychic, the London Knights could possibly catch a glimpse of the future at some point this weekend.

Their opponents, the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds and Saginaw Spirit, are slotted seventh and eighth, respectively, in the Western Conference. It's likely London, who has been in the first overall spot for the bulk of the season, will draw one of them in the opening round of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs.

"In our locker-room, we're looking at the two games this weekend," Knights winger Max Domi said. "Going forward, it doesn't really matter who we play in the playoffs. We want to send a message to the whole league that we're gearing up for the playoffs, in that mode."

Domi, 17, isn't all talk. The tricky stick-handler popped in three and added an assist in London's 8-1 thumping of the Erie Otters on Sunday. In a total of seven games this month, including three without running mate Seth Griffith in the lineup, Domi has amassed 11 points.

Interestingly enough, a player who will be staring back from the visitor's bench on Friday has actually had an even better February.

Greyhounds sparkplug Nick Cousins, a 19-year-old from Belleville, has recorded at least a point in all seven games, and 17 overall. His 93 points in 56 games is tops in the OHL.

Shutting down Cousins is the team's largest task against a rejuvenated Greyhounds squad. When London did just that on Nov. 11, keeping Cousins scoreless, they won. A Jan. 16 meeting, in which Cousins picked up three helpers, ended 4-2 in favour of Sault Ste. Marie.

"He's good at getting plays going off the rush. He's a skilled playmaker," said Tommy Hughes, the Knights' soft-spoken assistant captain. "You can't let him get under your skin, either. You can't let him throw you off mentally."

The Spirit, on the other hand, will arrive at Budweiser Gardens a tired bunch. Sunday's game will be their third in about 40 hours. Over that span, Saginaw is scheduled to compete against the best teams in the conference.

Weekend schedule

- **Friday.** At: Budweiser Gardens, 7:30 p.m. vs. Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. Record: 31-21-2-2. The hot hand: Nick Cousins (23 goals, 70 assists).
- **Sunday.** At: Budweiser Gardens, 2 p.m. vs. Saginaw Spirit. Record: 28-23-3-3. The hot hand: Eric Locke (38 goals, 46 assists).

***Statistics heading into Thursday's games**

Police may be able to search cellphones: Court

The right of police officers to look through someone's phone depends on whether there's a password, Ontario's highest court has ruled.

It's all right for police to have a cursory look through a phone upon arrest if it's not password protected, but if it is, investigators should get a search warrant, the Court of Appeal for Ontario said in a decision released Wednesday.

The court's ruling comes in the case of a man who appealed his robbery conviction, arguing that police breached his charter rights by looking through his phone after his arrest.

Quoted

"It may be that some future case will produce a factual matrix that will lead the court to carve out a cellphone exception to the law. To put it in the modern vernacular: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"
Court ruling

Kevin Fearon was arrested in July 2009, after a jewelry stall at a flea market in Toronto was robbed, and police found pictures of a gun and cash as well as a text message about jewelry on his phone.

The court denied his appeal, saying that police were allowed to look through Fearon's phone "in a cursory fashion" to see if there was evidence relevant to the crime, but after that they should have stopped to get a search warrant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigation

Plattsville man facing sexual assault charges

A 45-year-old man is facing sex-assault charges in connection with an investigation by Oxford County OPP. AM980

Double-double trouble

Arrest made in Tim Hortons holdup

A 14-year-old boy was arrested Wednesday after he allegedly tried to hold up a Tim Hortons in Chatham-Kent.
METRO

Thames Valley. School board to host session on parental engagement

The Thames Valley District School Board parent-involvement committee is hosting a daylong information session this weekend.

Highlighted by keynote speaker Dr. Debbie Pushor of the University of Saskatchewan, the Making It Happen: Exemplary Parent Engagement Conference is a workshop focused on improving parental involvement at the school level.

Pushor, billed as a "leading expert in the area of parent engagement" in a media release from the Thames Valley District School Board, will discuss research that links student success to parental engagement.

There will also be chances for attendees to learn about practical parenting strategies and skills that can be used to build strengths and remove barriers, says the release.

There are a few spaces still available for the free conference.

Contact Arlene Morell at amorell@rogers.ca or 519-245-4412 for more information.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Canada Innovates

Part 3

The final part of Metro's series on Canadian innovation may include some failed ideas, but could we have a winner when it comes to today's design?

You'll notice highlighted words in the text. These are words we feel are important to understanding the stories and may help you digest their meaning a little bit easier.

Does it work? Let us know by emailing readers@metronews.ca or tweet @MetroNewsCanada.

Exclusively online

Find out from Calgary's mayor what makes a city successful and innovative at metronews.ca/naheednenshi

Self-made millionaire Arlene Dickinson was a struggling single mom of four when she turned Venture Communications into one of Canada's largest and most successful communications firms. CHRISTOPHER WAHL/CONTRIBUTED

A DRAGON'S EYE VIEW

Entrepreneur and TV personality Arlene Dickinson weighs in on Canada's innovation inertia

ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

The 2008 recession put a damper on **innovation** in Canada, says Arlene Dickinson of Dragons' Den, and while things are now "turning a corner," she believes the country still has a long way to go.

"Other places have been innovating at a **rapid** speed, and we haven't been putting as much time and attention into it," Dickinson told Metro in a recent interview.

"My concern about the state of innovation is that it's lagging behind."

The problem, according to the high-profile investor and businesswoman, is not a lack of **entrepreneurial spirit** in Canada.

Quite the contrary, in fact.

"You think about Dragons' Den and the number of entrepreneurs in the country that are coming forward — I think we are being very entrepreneurial," Dickinson said.

"But that's kind of a new **phenomenon**. That's happened in the last three or four years as we come out of a bad economy, because that's what's going to drive a new economy."

The sticking point for many of these would-be innovators is going from **concept** to **commercialization**.

As an example, she pointed to the "3-D Sawhorse" — an innovative hardware product developed in the garage of 82-year-old Sam Koffski, which Dickinson snapped up on Season 6 of Dragons' Den.

Falling behind

"Other places have been innovating at a rapid speed, and we haven't been putting much time and attention into it."
Venture Communications CEO Arlene Dickinson

The elderly entrepreneur had a great idea on his hands, Dickinson said, but struggled finding the **effective** financing, patents, manufacturing and distribution.

With a little help, though, that soon changed, and the product could hit retail shelves by the spring.

"It's about to go into stores, hopefully, across the world," Dickinson said. "Sometimes what great **ideas** need is just somebody to open the doors and also to put the weight behind the idea to make it successful."

On a broader scale, Dickinson said Canada needs to change its **mentality** when it comes to innovation and make it a large part of the national discourse.

"We have to start talking about it more, making it part of the conversation of business in this country," she said. "If we don't, we're going to be in trouble. We're going to be left behind, absolutely."

Canada's closet of colossal failures

With great ideas come great failures, and Canada has had plenty of failures. But that's really no surprise given Canadians' entrepreneurial spirit.

Tom Villemaire is the co-author of Colossal Canadian Failures, a short history of things that seemed like a good idea at the time and an ode to Canada's innovative spirit gone **haywire**. Metro spoke with him about why failure is an important step in the innovative process.

In terms of innovation, where exactly did most of these ideas fail?

A lot of these so-called failures were victims of timing — they were good ideas but out of synch with the times. Some were marketing failures — the consumers just weren't convinced of the **potential**. Others were situations where the inventor was the victim of backers who lost confidence too early or got greedy. And some were just weird. George Kavanaugh's idea to use carrots for rectal treatment (with a recess in the carrot for medication) was really an odd idea from the start. And the idea of a perpetual motion machine made from wood — which, as we all know, creates sparks when two pieces of it are rubbed together and which, as we all know, burns very easily — was just plain wrong.

What was the best idea that went wrong? Why? And could it have worked if the situation was different?

Well, there are a few contenders, but I think ultimately it has to be the Avro Arrow — a supersonic, all-weather jet fighter that did very well in test flights with pilots.

But like almost every other government project, the **costs** were significantly higher than had been initially estimated ($1.5 million to $400 million to $700 million). The Liberals were in power when the Arrow was built and had to defend the expense. When John Diefenbaker's Conservatives defeated the Liberals in 1957, it took them under two years to cancel the Arrow program.

Were these mostly bad ideas or were they just developed wrong?

Some were bad ideas from the start, but in a lot of other cases, the inventors — or their backers — just lacked the self-confidence or **resources** to follow something through. Two guys from Toronto had a working light bulb before Thomas Edison. They couldn't raise money to develop it so they sold the patent to Edison, who was working on something similar and just rolled their idea into the mix.

Would you still call these inventors innovators, just because they were willing to try something new and different?

Many of these people were innovators and were **brilliant**. Not all, however. Samuel Hughes was a Conservative minister in charge of getting Canada ready for the First World War. Among his other questionable decisions, he registered a patent in his secretary's name for a new and **improved** shovel and ordered the shovels for his troops. In fact, the soldiers needed shovels to dig the foxholes and trenches that would help protect them in battle. But Hughes' secretary suggested they could use the shovels as shields and put holes in them so the soldiers could shoot from behind them. A shovel with a hole in it just isn't the most effective shovel.

Has Canada learned from these mistakes?

I think Canada has learned a little, but there are still plenty of Canadians who head south to "make it big," and that is a **symptom** of a problem. And some might say Canada doesn't always have the confidence and **boldness** to support its inventors and innovators.

Can future innovators learn from them?

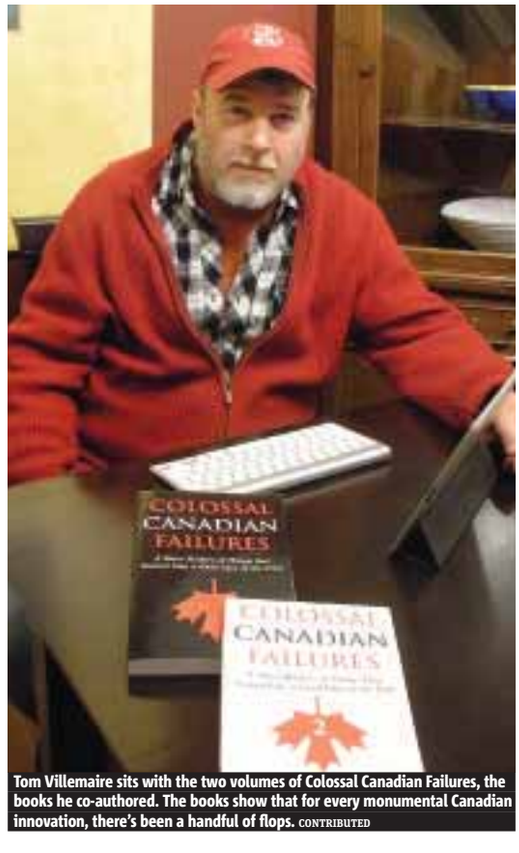
I think future innovators can draw **inspiration** from even the failures. Anyone who wants to try something new is daring to break new ground. That's a scary thing. Failure and doing something new are roommates; they're twins. You can't have one without the other. Even Alexander Graham Bell had failures — like the Cygnet II, a plane he designed with wings created from a wall of kites. At the time, there was nothing that had enough power to get the plane airborne in the first place. But he's not remembered for that; he's remembered for his **successes**.

How do you see Canada in terms of innovative thinking these days?

We have pretty **amazing** technology people in Canada. You look at the BlackBerry and the Canadarm and even the arms industry with the LAV3 or Stryker. **High-tech** means high pay and good jobs, so it's important to keep that kind of thing in the country.

METRO

For text of the full interview, visit metronews.ca/innovation



Tom Villemaire sits with the two volumes of Colossal Canadian Failures, the books he co-authored. The books show that for every monumental Canadian innovation, there's been a handful of flops. CONTRIBUTED

Ashley Smith was emaciated, hurt, dirty in prison: Mother

Last look alive. Inquest hears of teen's ragged condition months before her death in jail

The mother of a teenager who killed herself in her prison cell recalled how years of segregation appeared to diminish her daughter.

In a harrowing account of the last time she saw her daughter alive, Coralee Smith described her shock at Ashley's appearance during a visit in the summer of 2007.

"Oh Mom, my skin is all loose," Ashley told Smith through the Plexiglas screen that separated them.

"She was not a 19-year-old girl at that point; she was aged," an emotional Smith told an inquest jury. "She was a lot smaller."

Four guards at the Nova Institution for Women in Truro, N.S., had brought Ashley into the interview room, her mom recounted.

She was in handcuffs, shackles and dressed in a security gown aimed at preventing suicides. Her hair looked dirty.

Ashley had an injured eye — apparently caused by choking herself.

"When you come home, we'll take you to an optometrist," Smith told her daughter.

Smith, 65, of Moncton, N.B., who travelled far to visit her daughter, said she never knew about Ashley's self-harming behaviour or lengthy segregation stints.

Asked what they talked about, Smith said, "Coming home."

At the end of the visit, Smith put her hand to the screen, but Ashley appeared reluctant.

"I watched them take her down the hall," Smith said. "It was the last time I saw Ashley alive."

A few months later, after yet another prison transfer, Ashley choked herself to death at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener. Guards, ordered not to intervene, watched.

After learning of her child's death, Smith called Eric Broadbent, a correctional manager.

Broadbent, who once promised Smith he would look after Ashley, was among managers who berated guards for going into her cell to remove ligatures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ashley Smith in an undated photo. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Edmonton. Murder added to parents' charges after alleged abuse of twin girls

An Edmonton couple charged with starving and abusing their young twins are facing murder charges.

Paramedics were called last May to a home where they found the two-year-old girls suffering from injuries and severe malnourishment.

One of the girls, known in court documents as M, spent the next three months in a coma virtually brain dead.

She died shortly after the Supreme Court of Canada refused to interfere with an earlier court ruling allowing doctors to remove her from a ventilator.

Her sister and an older brother were placed in foster care.

The parents are to appear in court Friday on the new charges: Second-degree murder and criminal negligence causing death.

They still face original charges of aggravated assault, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and failing to provide the necessities of life.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Las Vegas killing causes pileup, fire, deaths

Police rope off the scene of a shooting and multi-car accident on the Las Vegas Strip early Thursday. Authorities say at least one person in a Range Rover shot at people in a Maserati that then crashed into a taxi. The cab burst into flames, and the driver and passenger were killed. The male driver of the Maserati also died, and his passenger was shot. STEVE MARCUS, LAS VEGAS SUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California

Feds face test of gay-marriage talk

The Obama administration is considering urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn California's ban on gay marriage.

The administration faces heightened expectations from gay-rights supporters after President Barack Obama, who only last year came out with his support, has become far more vocal in his second term.

His administration has a week to file a brief outlining its opinion on the California ban, known as Proposition 8. While it is unlikely to sway the high court, the government's opinion does carry weight with the justices.

Opponents of the ban believe the president signalled his intentions when he declared in last month's inaugural address that homosexuals must be "treated like anyone else under the law."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg

Former Scouts leader admits to sexual abuse

A former leader with Scouts Canada has pleaded guilty in Winnipeg to several sex charges involving minors.

Stuart Garrett Young, 40, has admitted to sexual assault, sexual exploitation, making child pornography and other offences.

His sentencing hearing is set for April 15.

Young was a longtime volunteer with Scouts Canada and helped run an outdoor program for kids 14 to 17 years old.

At the time of his arrest last summer, police alleged Young had abused one of his victims from 2009 to 2011.

Young was suspended from Scouts Canada as soon as the group became suspicious of him and notified police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesters hope to send Morsi to the moon

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi GETTY IMAGES FILE

An Egyptian opposition group has made a novel protest against President Mohammed Morsi by signing him up for a chance to win a trip to space.

The April 6 Youth Movement said on its Facebook page Thursday that it had entered the Islamist leader's name in the contest because it wanted to be rid of him. It called on supporters to vote for the president.

There was no immediate response from the president's press office to an email seeking comment.

"For sure, no one in the universe can put up with blatant lies, reneging on promises except for the brotherly people of the moon," the group wrote on its post.

"It is for this reason that the president needs your votes. President Morsi, we wish you safe travels."

April 6 was a driving force behind the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak's regime. Many of its supporters backed Morsi in the June 2012 election he narrowly won to become Egypt's first freely elected president.

But later, the group became among the fiercest critics of the president and his Muslim Brotherhood, the fundamentalist group from which he hails. The opposition accuses Morsi of monopolizing power and going back on campaign promises to have an inclusive government and introduce far-reaching reforms.

Morsi's supporters say the new government cannot immediately fix years of neglect and poor administration from Mubarak's 29-year rule.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EI overhaul. Feds crack down on insurance claims with home visits

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says hundreds of millions of dollars are lost through false or inappropriate employment insurance claims and the federal government wants to curb that.

Federal workers are now visiting employment insurance recipients at home, the prime minister confirmed Thursday in response to a report from The Canadian Press. He said the government must ensure the EI system's integrity.

"Every year, unfortunately, in our employment insurance system, hundreds of millions of dollars are identified or are lost through false, or fraudulent or inappropriate claims," Harper said while in Saskatoon for an unrelated announcement.

"One of the jobs of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada is to ensure that the funds in the employment insurance system are there for people who have lost their jobs, who qualify and who need that help."

He spoke following a report that public servants have been making unannounced visits since January, as part of an examination being conducted while the EI program is overhauled.

During those visits federal employees have been hand-delivering questionnaires and requests for people to appear at their regular EI interviews.

About 1,200 EI beneficiaries will be receiving the visits through the end of next month. A group of 50 federal civil servants have been assigned to make the house calls.

A federal workers' union representative has told The Canadian Press that she had already been concerned for government employees because of the controversy over EI changes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial changes

From now on, people who frequently claim EI are expected to accept any job for which they're qualified, within 100 kilometres of home, as long as the pay is 70 per cent of their previous salary.

- They must also prove they're actively seeking work.
- Opponents say the plan is particularly harsh on Atlantic Canada and Quebec, which have a number of seasonal industries.

Flu vaccine had little effect on elderly: CDC

Study. This year the vaccine didn't perform as well as expected in adults over 65

This year's flu vaccine provided little protection to people 65 and older who got a shot, new data released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reveal.

The study estimates how well the vaccine did at preventing people from becoming sick enough to need to see a doctor — preventing "medically attended flu" in influenza science parlance. And the data suggests this year the vaccine didn't perform very well for older adults.

It found that a flu shot cut an older adult's risk of contracting a case of influenza A H3N2 that needed medical care by only nine per cent.

When the scientists calculated the overall effectiveness — the vaccine's ability to prevent medically attended flu caused by both flu A and B viruses — the estimate was 27 per cent for older adults.

The findings are disappointing given the H3N2 component in this year's vaccine is well matched to the viruses circulating. Paradoxically, the B component of the vaccine isn't as closely matched to circulating viruses, yet it is performing better, according to the study.

Dr. Joe Bresee, a flu expert with the CDC, said older adults need to know that if they got a flu shot and they develop flu-like illness, they may have influenza and should see a doctor to see if they should take antiviral drugs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carlos Maisonet, 73, reacts as Dr. Eva Berrios-Colon injects him with flu vaccine during a visit to the faculty practice centre at Brooklyn Hospital in New York on Jan. 15. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Don't assume just because you got the vaccine, that (the) flu-like illness you've got can't be flu."

Dr. Joe Bresee, a flu expert with CDC

India. Police search for men accused of raping and killing three sisters

Indian police said Thursday they have launched a manhunt for men suspected of raping and killing three sisters, aged five to 11, in the latest case of sexual violence to grip the country.

The sisters' bodies were found in a village well in Maharashtra state on Feb. 14 after they had gone missing from school, police officer Javed Ahmed said. The area is more than 1,000 kilometres south of New Delhi, the capital.

As the victims' mother accused police of a shoddy investigation, enraged villagers forced shops to close, burned tires and blocked a national highway passing through the area for several hours on Wednesday, demanding justice.

One police officer has been suspended for not acting promptly, said Indian Heavy Industries Minister Praful Patel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New law

A new law enacted by the Indian government has increased the sentences for rape from seven to 10 years to a maximum of 20 years. It also provides for the death penalty in extreme cases of rape that result in death or leave the victim in a coma.

Germany

Catholic hospitals can prescribe pill to rape victims

Roman Catholic-run hospitals can prescribe limited emergency contraception to rape victims, German bishops said Thursday as they sought to contain fallout from an embarrassing recent case in which two hospitals refused to treat a woman.

The German church was under pressure to clarify its stance after two Catholic hospitals in Cologne turned away a rape victim because of concerns over the pill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New detective takes over Pistorius murder case

Ahead of a judge's decision on whether to release Oscar Pistorius on bail, South African police on Thursday appointed a new chief detective in the murder case, replacing a veteran policeman who is himself charged with attempted murder.

The sensational twist in the state's troubled investigation fuelled growing public fascination with the case against the double-amputee Olympian, who is charged with premeditated murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in the early hours of Valentine's Day.

Much of the drama Thursday, however, happened outside the courtroom as South African police scrambled to get their investigation on track.

The decision to put police Lt. Gen. Vinesh Moonoo in charge came soon after word emerged that the initial chief investigator, Hilton Botha, is facing attempted murder charges, and a day after he offered testimony damaging to the prosecution.

Bulewa Makeke, spokeswoman for South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority, said the attempted murder charges had been reinstated against Botha on Feb. 4. Police say they found out about it after Botha testified in Pistorius's bail hearing Wednesday.

Botha and two other police officers had seven counts of attempted murder reinstated against them in relation to a 2011 shooting incident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Discrepancies

- Botha acknowledged Wednesday in court that nothing in Pistorius's version of the fatal shooting of Steenkamp contradicted what police had discovered, even though there have been some discrepancies.
- Botha also said that police had left a 9 mm slug in the toilet and had lost track of allegedly illegal ammunition found in Pistorius's home.

Former investigating officer Hilton Botha sits inside the witness box during the bail hearing for Oscar Pistorius at the magistrate court in Pretoria, South Africa, Thursday. Botha, accused of attempted murder, has been replaced as lead detective in the Pistorius case. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Securities oversight

Canadian stock markets to get new 'circuit breakers'

Canadian stock markets will adopt new "circuit breakers" that will briefly stop trading when there is a big drop in a major index.

The changes will be consistent with measures planned for U.S. markets.

In essence, under the new rules, it will take a smaller drop to trip the circuit breaker but the pauses will be shorter when they do occur. The change was announced by the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada, a national body that helps oversee the country's securities markets. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Home improvement

Rona to cut 200 jobs across Canada

Home improvement retailer Rona Inc. plans to cut 200 full-time administrative jobs across Canada as it looks for ways to become more efficient and improve the customer experience as it continued to underperform in the fourth quarter. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Restaurants

Tim's plans extra renos in 2013

Tim Hortons hopes a refreshed look for many of its stores and a new leader atop its executive team this summer will boost the brand as it endures an underwhelming economy and heavy competition from other coffee restaurants. The chain plans to renovate about 300 of its franchised stores this year, or roughly double the amount it has most other years. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Designed for social shopping

Not sure about a potential style purchase? This change room at the new Simons store in West Edmonton Mall is designed to help. It has a digital photo studio resembling a giant iPad, which allows consumers to take photos of their shopping experience and post the photos to social media feeds to get instant feedback from friends. Figure3, a Toronto interior design firm, won Store of The Year in Chain Store Age's 31st annual design competition for its work on the 115,000-square-foot Simons store. CONTRIBUTED

Light-sabre classes teach Star Wars fans to feel the force

San Francisco. Ever wanted to put 'Jedi' on your resumé? This workshop will give you the requisite moves

Jim Collum, foreground, and other students work on light-sabre skills during a Golden Gate Knights class in San Francisco on Feb. 10. A group of San Francisco Star Wars fans who want to travel to a galaxy not that far away have created a combat choreography class for Jedis-in-training. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of San Francisco Star Wars fans have created a combat choreography class for Jedis-in-training with their weapon of choice: the light sabre.

At a recent class, Alain Bloch, the self-proclaimed Jedi Master at Golden Gate Knights, demonstrated a slicing technique. He has a background in martial arts and stage combat.

"Always be mindful of the presence!" he said, donning a Luke Skywalker outfit and a green light sabre.

With Star Wars movie music coursing through the dance studio, his disciples clutch their neon-glowing light sabres.

These self-proclaimed Star Wars geeks slice and parry as they follow Bloch's lead, and they get a little exercise, too.

People in a recent class, including a couple on a date, said they embraced their quirkiness and had even converted some of the skeptical into the Jedi order.

"At first they giggle because they think it's a little silly. Then they're like, 'Actually that's kind of cool,'" said Julio Reyes, a student. Not all Jedis-in-training are rooting for the good guys. Some came to embrace the dark side of the force.

"I just love Vader, period," said the Darth Vader-clad student Gary Ripper. "Just his voice, the way he moved, the power of him. I just liked the powerfulness of him." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

TV. Nielsen to measure broadband audiences

The company that measures television viewership said Thursday it will soon begin counting people who watch programming through broadband in addition to the traditional broadcast or cable hook-up.

Nielsen's move is a significant step toward recognizing a world where the definition of TV viewing is swiftly changing and toward satisfying clients concerned that the company isn't keeping up with those changes. Separately, Nielsen is developing ways to track content on tablets and mobile phones.

For many years, roughly 99 per cent of homes in the U.S. had televisions that received service through broadcast, cable or satellite signals.

Now the number of homes without such service is 4.2 per cent — and growing each year. An estimated three-quarters of those homes still have TVs, and their owners watch programming through game consoles or services like Netflix and Amazon. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Toys. Lego gets sales boost from girly product lineup

Lego's sales soared 25 per cent last year thanks in part to its new series of building blocks designed for girls.

The privately owned company said Thursday that on revenue of about $4.2 billion its net profits grew 38 per cent, to about $1 billion.

The company, based in western Denmark, said the Lego Star Wars and Lego Ninjago series remained among the more popular, but it was a novel roll-out for girls, Lego Friends, that sold better than expected — to the extent that production units were unable to keep pace with demand. The line, which includes mini-figures in pink, a dream house with a pool, and a beauty shop, drew some criticism for reinforcing gender stereotypes. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

By the numbers

7.9%

Lego said its share of the total U.S. toy market has quadrupled in five years. As of the end of 2012 it was 7.9 per cent, up 1.6 percentage points from the previous year.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.16¢ (-0.14¢)

TSX 12,639.97 (-74.08)

OIL $92.84 US (-$2.38)

GOLD $1,578.60 US (+60¢)

Natural gas: $3.24 US (-4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,880.62 (-46.92)

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DUNK IT, SHAKE IT & ROLL THAT RIM

THE LIST
Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 **Terrence Ross.** The Raptors rookie leapfrogged a ballboy before throwing down a one-handed dunk to cement his NBA All-Star dunk contest title. The best part of the win? He paid homage to Vince Carter by wearing his retro Raptors Jersey for one dunk, and the ballboy was the son of Twitter CEO Dick Costolo. Ross should have live-tweeted as he was dunking.

2 **Seth MacFarlane.** The stuffy, formal Oscars night is loosening up, with the no-holds-barred Seth (Family Guy) MacFarlane hosting the 85th Academy Awards this Sunday. The Academy Awards going edgier like the Golden Globes does is a good thing. Because at the end of the day, who really cares about the boring acceptance speeches?

3 **Harlem Shake.** The new Gangnam Style, this Internet dance phenomenon is based on an electronic dance track by DJ Baauer. Thousands of YouTube videos are being uploaded every day of people doing it, from sports teams to office workers. And unlike Gangnam, you don't have to be a great dancer. Which means I'll be all over this meme soon.

4 **Pancake Manor.** This Canadian YouTube music video series for kids by Billy Reid has garnered more than nine million views. Featuring puppets that educate with high energy music and humour, it's great for entertaining and tiring your preschoolers out — and giving parents a break. Go to pancakemanor.com to discover this brave new kids world.

5 **Danica Patrick.** In a historic sports achievement, Patrick became the first woman to win the pole position for the Daytona 500 — the Super Bowl of NASCAR. She beat the boys by posting a lap of 196.434 m.p.h., and starts alongside Jeff Gordon in the Feb. 24 race. Two words for Patrick: girl power!

6 **Roll Up The Rim.** Tim Hortons' latest Roll Up The Rim promotion has begun. It has become so well known that it now makes headlines each time it starts up. And it's upped the ante for this, their 27th annual event, by including 100 pre-paid MasterCards loaded with $5,000 each among the prizes. With my luck, I'll just settle for a double double.

7 **Roberto Luongo.** The Vancouver Canucks goalie may have the funniest, most self-deprecating Twitter account in sports @strombone1. He takes you inside the hockey world, poking fun at himself and others who take sport so seriously. A recent tweet said "Almost had him....." with a picture of Luongo giving up a goal he wasn't close to saving. LOL.

8 **Twitter Hacker Club.** A hamburglar hacked @burgerking's Twitter account Monday, changing the account to McDonald's profile pic. Then Tuesday, someone (reportedly the Whopper hacker) carhacked @jeep's account, saying it had been sold to Cadillac. This was quite a lesson in password security for both companies, but they did pick up plenty of new followers with the attention.

9 **The Junos.** The music machine that is Canadian pop star Carly Rae Jepsen picked up more award nominations this week, this time five to lead the pack for the 2013 Juno Awards, which take place in Regina on April 21. Heck, she got more than the boy who discovered her and launched her career with a tweet, the Biebs. The whole world has her number now.

10 **Big Brother Canada.** From a small-town elementary teacher in Nova Scotia to a T.O. socialite to a Calgary firefighter who likes to party, the first season of Big Brother Canada has all the makings of great Canadian reality TV — and evictions. The show debuts Feb. 27 on Slice. I know I'll be tuning in to check out the hijinks.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

Terrence Ross jumps over a ball kid for his winning dunk. ERIC GAY/POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Putting their backs into it

ALEJANDRO CARTAGENA/KOPEIKIN GALLERY

Mexican carpooling

Daily commute inspires art project

For most of us, riding on the back of a pickup truck would be a once-off trip, but for construction workers in Monterrey, Mexico, it's part of a daily commute. This bird's eye view of labourers is the theme of photographer Alejandro Cartagena's project Car Poolers, exhibited at Los Angeles' Kopeikin Gallery from Feb. 23 to April 6.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Q&A with photographer

'Simple, honest, life'

How did this photo project come about?
In the summer of 2011, I started going once or twice a week to the same spot — an overpass on Monterrey's Highway 85 going southbound to San Pedro Garza Garcia — to photograph these workers on their way to work. I would stay for two hours and get just a couple of images I liked; the speed of the trucks made it difficult to get clear shots. After a year, I've arrived with around 120 good images.

How has the reaction to your photos been?
Some people in Mexico have found them humorous, others provocative, but most are very intrigued at the choice of viewpoint to portray the issue...

What issue is that?
The social and economic kind. If these guys would go on the bus route, it would be too expensive for them, since there are no proper mass low-cost transportation systems. I hope one can reflect on how people's resilience helps them maintain hope of a better life in a country filled with social, political and violent issues.

In three words, how would you describe your photos?
Simple, honest, life.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/
METRO WORLD NEWS

Metropolitan Panel

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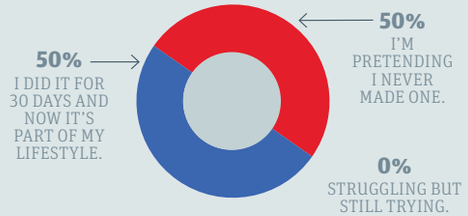
What's the status of your New Year's resolution?



Twitter

@edjackman: Very excited to announce that I've been selected as @canadaslondon Culture blogger for the 2013 World Figure Skating Championships! #LdnOnt

@RSorzano: I like the new London ON twibbon! Where did it come from? #ldnont

@1069TheX: Roll up the Rim etiquette when someone else buys you the drink do you split the prize 50/50? #whatdoyoudo #ldnont

@dlipstick: don't mind if i don't

@CanadianCheri: To the people who make music... thank you. <3

@phronk: Google Glass will finally solve a problem we all face: the inability to take a video of your life falling apart, via sexts, while skydiving.

metro
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Dwayne Johnson offers to hunt down a few criminals in exchange for less jail time for his son in Snitch. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

The Rock cooks a stinker

Snitch. It's dealers vs. Dwayne Johnson in this movie, with a heavy handed look at America's War on Drugs policy

Richard: Mark, Snitch isn't a bad movie, but it is a miscast one. As charismatic as The Rock… er … Johnson is, his physicality gets in the way. The character is a determined regular Joe willing to go to any lengths to help his son. But how much more effective would it have been if he didn't resemble a cop who could crash the drug dealers he's working with between his muscular thumb and forefinger?

Mark: I wouldn't say it was miscast, but that it was too obviously cast. Your idea of casting against type, as an everyman rather than an action hero, is a tantalizing one. I'm imagining how much more interesting a movie it would be with, say, Ryan Gosling, or even Paul Giamatti. The real question, however, is: when Susan Sarandon and Barry Pepper are support characters in a Dwayne Johnson movie, is this one of the signs of the apocalypse?

RC: Ha! I thought Pepper was OK but you could almost see Sarandon reaching for the paycheque. She has seven movies coming out this year and seems to have wedged this one in as she ran from set to set. Perhaps the movie's message that the "War on Drugs" needs to find a new plan of attack appealed to her, but she's playing this one as a character straight out of Central Casting. What did you think of Jon Bernthal as the ex-con who gives The Rock a hand. Loved him on The Walking Dead and thought he was one of the best things about this movie, even if the conclusion to his story was far fetched.

MB: Well, he was the only one in the movie who brought an element of surprise to his scenes. As far as the story goes, I liked the premise, but I thought the storytelling was kind of sloppy and sometimes it felt like scenes were missing. The violence was restrained for this kind of movie, and I'm not sure if that's a good or a bad thing. And the villains barely registered. They were mostly nasty in theory.

RC: I found the lack of violence refreshing. Given the name, the star and the idea you might have expected this to be a shoot 'em up, and it isn't. It's a father and son story with a twist.

MB: Finally! A drug movie for the whole family!

Synopsis

Dwayne Johnson is John Matthews, owner of a construction company and estranged father to Jason (Rafi Gavron). Jason falls into a Kafka-esque legal loophole when his drug-dealing best friend implicates him as a trafficker in return for a break on jail time. Under America's strict "War on Drugs" laws Jason is facing a mandatory 10-year sentence unless he gives up the name of a co-conspirator, but because he's innocent he has no one to snitch on. John gets the action underway when he says to the U.S. Attorney (Susan Sarandon), "What if I do it for him? What if I help you make arrests?" Cue the cage match between The Rock and drug dealers.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●●○○

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Oscar night. Canadians in the running at this year's Academy Awards

Montreal's Kim Nguyen is nominated in the best foreign language film category for Rebelle. HANDOUT

Kim Nguyen of Montreal is nominated in the best foreign-language film category for Rebelle (War Witch). The French-language drama is a harrowing look at the lives of child soldiers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nguyen penned the story over the course of a decade and shot it in Congo with a cast that included several local first-time actors.

Toronto composer Mychael Danna is up for best original score and best original song for Life of Pi. Danna spent nearly a year working on the score for the film, based on the Booker-winning novel by Yann Martel. Danna had previously collaborated with Pi director Ang Lee on 1997's The Ice Storm and 1999's Ride with the Devil.

Yan England of Montreal is nominated for best live-action short for Henry, about an elderly pianist. England has said it's a tribute to his late grandfather, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. The filmmaker has been acting in English and French since he was eight and financed Henry out of his own pocket.

Toronto-bred producer Mino Jarjoura is up for best live-action short for Asad, about a Somalian boy torn between life as a budding fisherman and the temptation to become a pirate. Jarjoura says he and director Bryan Buckley wanted to capture the indomitable spirit of Somalian people, which they discovered while making a short documentary for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2010.

Montreal-based producer Ariel Nasr is up for best live-action short film for Buzhkashi Boys, about two Afghan boys who long to professionally play the country's brutal horse-polo sport. It was shot in Kabul in February 2011 and produced through the non-profit Afghan Film Project.

Jim Erickson of Salt Spring Island, B.C., is in the running for best production design for Lincoln. He was previously nominated for There Will Be Blood. After 30 years working in Hollywood, Erickson has said he's now ready to retire. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rating the hosts

2009: Hugh Jackman

The Australian charmer — who happens to be a nominee for best actor this year — turned in the hosting performance to beat the year Slumdog Millionaire won. His opening song-and-dance number was the standout, but Broadway veteran Jackman proved he's an all-around talent.

2010: Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin

The likeable comic actors relied heavily on their own charm, but it wasn't enough to save the show. With stale jokes and awkward delivery, their performance felt too much like an ad for their equally disappointing 2009 film It's Complicated.

2011: James Franco and Anne Hathaway

As we remarked during this train wreck, "Apparently there is something James Franco can't do." This brazen attempt at pulling in younger viewers turned out to be a disaster, with current nominee Hathaway seemingly abandoned by Franco, who seemed to have — wisely — given up on the endeavor before it began.

2012: Billy Crystal

After the Franco/Hathaway disaster, the Academy went back to standby Crystal, who hosted his ninth Oscars. But the funnyman's schtick maybe went too old-fashioned, as his bits were generally panned as hokey and out of touch. Case in point: while many in that precious younger demographic might not necessarily know Crystal was dressing up as Sammy Davis Jr. in one bit, they do know what blackface is.

The choice of Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane may seem like yet another attempt by the older-skewing Oscars to appeal to the kids, but he actually has a surprising tendency toward Old Hollywood style. At parties thrown at his house, MacFarlane is even known to sing standards backed by a big band. While the jury's still out on MacFarlane's performance, we thought we'd see what he has to measure up to from the last few years' Awards.

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

Will you be watching?

The 85th Academy Awards are on CTV Sunday and those with a stake in office pools will no doubt be glued to their sets. Hosted by Seth MacFarlane, the awards show kicks off at 8:30 p.m. ET. Both CTV and E! will have coverage of the stars walking the red carpet in their finery as they arrive at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Exclusively online

- Metro's own Ned Ehrbar will chronicle the highs and lows of the Academy Awards on Sunday night. You can follow along at metronews.ca or on Twitter with **@nedrick**
- Follow Dorothy Robinson's red carpet fashion critiques **@dorothyatmetro**

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sagecomm
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Best picture nominees vs. box office success

It's no secret in Hollywood that awards season accolades and box office success don't always go hand in hand — though a high-profile nomination or win will generally boost a film's gross.

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

Life of Pi. HANDOUT

So how do the nine best picture nominees rank as far as their global ticket sales?

1. **Life of Pi**: $576 million
2. **Les Misérables**: $378.9 million
3. **Django Unchained**: $365.9 million
4. **Lincoln**: $235 million
5. **Argo**: $204 million
6. **Silver Linings Playbook**: $140 million
7. **Zero Dark Thirty**: $101.5 million
8. **Amour**: $17 million
9. **Beasts of the Southern Wild**: $12 million

The Avengers. HANDOUT

On the flip side, we take a look at how the highest grossing films of 2012 stack up when it comes to Oscar nominations:

1. **The Avengers** ($1.5 billion) — 1 nomination
2. **Skyfall** ($1.1 billion) — 5 nominations
3. **The Dark Knight Rises** ($1.08 billion) 0 nominations
4. **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** ($959.8 million) — 3 nominations
5. **Ice Age: Continental Drift** ($875.3 million) — 0 nominations

Steven Spielberg's Lincoln is the favourite to win best picture with four to one odds. HANDOUT

The odds-on Oscar favourites

With odds of four to one, Steven Spielberg's Lincoln is still the favourite to win the big prize of best picture at the Academy Awards Sunday, according to Gold Derby, which tracks the chances for Oscar nominees.

That's despite the surge of support — and wins at other awards shows — for Ben Affleck's Argo, which started when Affleck was left out of the best director race, which Spielberg is also most likely to take, with 12 to five odds.

In the acting categories, it's no surprise to anyone that Lincoln star Daniel Day-Lewis is most likely on his way to becoming the first three-time best actor winner in Oscar History, with a 39 per cent chance of victory.

The only nominee with better odds of scoring a trophy is Anne Hathaway, nominated for best supporting actress for Les Misérables.

The best actress race is much more interesting, with Silver Linings Playbook star Jennifer Lawrence (33 per cent) edging out Zero Dark Thirty's Jessica Chastain (30 per cent). Amour star Emmanuelle Riva, thought to be something of a potential spoiler, currently has 12 to one odds of winning. Just for comparison, our predictions when the nominations were announced last month had Lincoln, Spielberg, Day-Lewis and Chastain winning. We'll see how right we are come Sunday evening. **NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO**

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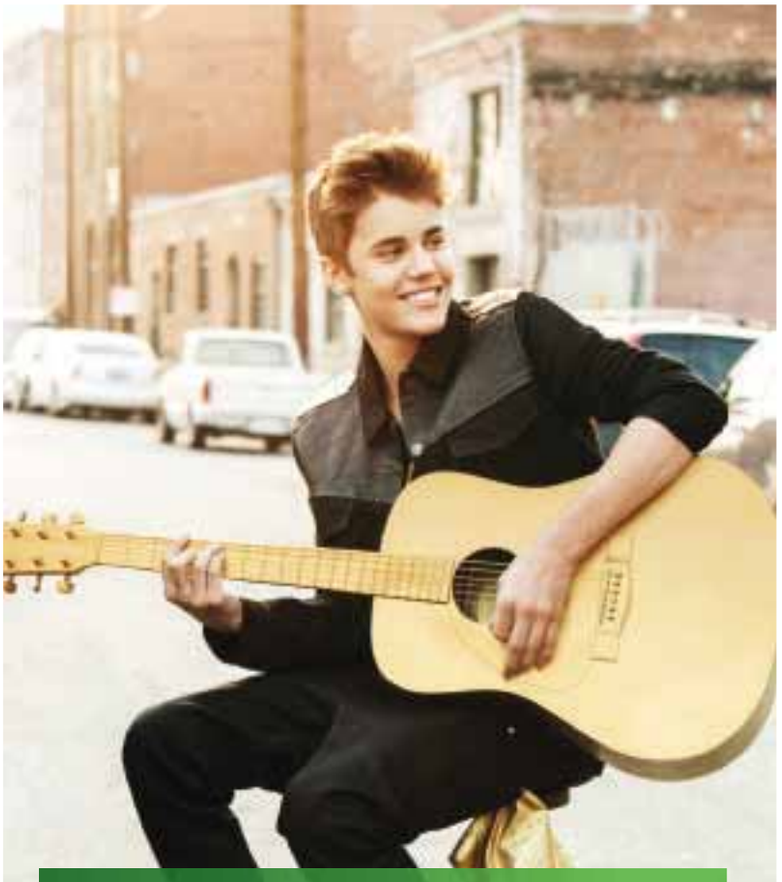

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The number one super guy: McGregor

Ewan McGregor, right, loves the humour of his character in Jack the Giant Slayer. HANDOUT

Jack the Giant Slayer. Star takes on the role of a well-intentioned knight who needs a little help from his sidekick Jack

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Ewan McGregor gets his daring-do on for director Bryan Singer in Jack the Giant Slayer, playing a knight who's forthright and heroic — to a fault — as he and Jack (Nicholas Hoult) try to rescue a princess from the aforementioned giants. But McGregor's inspiration for the character may surprise you.

You look fantastic in this movie. It seems like you haven't aged in the last 10 years. What gives?
(Laughs) I don't have a secret to that, I'm afraid.

When you're presented with a forthright knight type of character, how do you approach that?
I don't know, it's a pretty understandable character. It's a sort of classic role. It's not something new, really. I just played what was on the page, really. It's very well and clearly written in the script. And I liked the humour. I thought the humour that was in the writing was very good. I like the fact that he's sort of very gung-ho but very often doesn't quite get things right, and then Jack has to come along behind him and tidy things up. Sort of like a Hong Kong Phooey type style. That cartoon was one of my main sources of research, Hong Kong Phooey.

The film very carefully walks that line of appealing to both kids and adults.
I think that's right. It lies in exactly the right place for a film that's being made for a family to watch. Very often these days you take your kids to films and there's inappropriate language or sexual jokes that are very clearly aimed for the parents. You don't want your kids seeing that, or at least I don't. But this is absolutely something that you could take your family to see and you wouldn't find yourself in any awkward moments with your kids, you know? It's a classic sort of family movie.

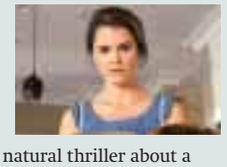
It's nice to see you working with your Trainspotting co-star Ewan Bremner again.
We did Black Hawk Down together and then we did another film called Perfect Sense together, so this is the fourth film that we've made together. I'm always happy to work with him because he's a great actor, Ewan. I like working with him very much. But yeah, four films we've made together now, so it'll be interesting to see what the next one is. We don't have anything planned that I know of.

Thriller

Dark Skies

Director. Scott Stewart

Stars. Keri Russell, Josh Hamilton



Freaky happenings abound in Dark Skies — a supernatural thriller about a young family that suddenly begins experiencing such disturbing events as unexplained nose bleeds and 800 birds inexplicably flying into their house. But the teeth really begin gnashing when the Barrett clan suspects the work of aliens. A loose ending may put off conventional moviegoers but filmmaker Scott Stewart crafts a pretty creepy story — even if it jumps a bit of logic.

STEVE GOW

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$157 BW STK#F13071A

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- Air Conditioning
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2010 DODGE AVENGER SE
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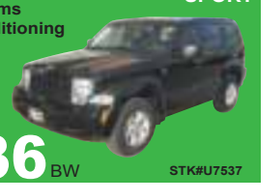
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STK#13230A

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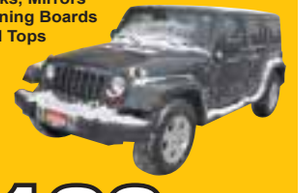
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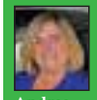
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Identity Thief. HANDOUT

London

Hyland Cinema
240 Wharncliffe Road South, 519-913-0313

Alien (PG) Fri 11:30
Amour (14A) Fri 6:15 Sat 7 Sun 3:35 Mon 6:40 Tue 6:30 Wed-Thu 1
Les Misérables (PG) Fri 1 Sat 3:30 Sun 6 Mon 3:35 Tue 1 Wed 3:30 Thu 6:30
A Royal Affair (STC) Fri 3:45 Sat-Mon 1 Tue 3:45 Wed 6:30 Thu 3:30
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri 8:35 Sat 9:20 Sun 8:45 Mon-Wed 9 Thu 9:15

Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073

Beautiful Creatures (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:30
Escape From Planet Earth (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:35-7:10-9:15
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-7-9:25
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:30-7:20-9:40
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:25-6:55-9:20
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:45-9:45
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 7:15
Snitch (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-7:05-9:35

Western Film Room 340, UCC Building,

Django Unchained (18A) Fri-Thu 9:10
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S, 519-685-2529

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:10
Dark Skies (14A) Fri 7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:15-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:25
Escape From Planet Earth (PG) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-6:50 Mon-Thu 5:30
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (PG) Fri 9:25 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:45
Safe Haven (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:20
Snitch (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40

Cineplex Odeon Westmount & VIP Cinemas
755 Wonderland Road South, 519-474-2796

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri 3:55-7:10-10:05 Sat 12:30-3:30-7:20-10:15 Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10-10:05 Mon 9:15 Tue 3:55-7:10-10:05 Wed 6:35-9:40 Thu 6:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (PG) Fri 4:40-7-9:25 Sat 12-2:15-4:40-7-9:25 Sun 12:45-3-4:40-7-9:25 Mon 7-9:20 Tue 4:40-7-9:25 Wed-Thu 7-9:20
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri 4:10-7:50-10:25 No Passes Sat 11:55-2:45-5:20-8-10:35 No Passes Sun 1:45-5:20-7:50-10:25 No Passes Mon 7:20-9:55 No Passes Tue 4:10-7:50-10:25 No Passes Wed 1:30-7:20-9:55 No Passes Thu 7:20-9:55 No Passes Fri 4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:15-4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Mon 8:15 No Passes Tue 4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Wed 8:15 No Passes Thu 8:25
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 4:30-7:20-10:10 Sat 12:10-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:10 Mon 6:50-9:35 Tue 4:30-7:20-10:10 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:35 Fri 3:55-6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:30-9:15 Mon 7:15 Tue 3:55-6:30-9:15 Wed 7:15
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Quartet (PG) Fri 4-6:30-9:15 Sat 12-2:25-4:55-6:30-9:15 Sun 1:10-4-6:30-9:15 Mon 6:40 Tue 4-6:30-9:15 Wed 1:25-6:40-9:15 Thu 6:40-9:15
Safe Haven (PG) Fri 3:45-6:50-9:45 Sat 1-3:50-6:50-9:50 Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:45 Mon 6:55-9:45 Tue 3:45-6:50-9:45 Wed 1:30-6:55-9:45 Thu 6:55-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 4:50-6:40-9:40 Sat 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Sun 12:55-3:50-6:40-9:40 Mon 6:30-9:30 Tue 4:50-6:40-9:40 Wed 1:15-6:30-9:30 Thu 6:30-9:30
Snitch (PG) Fri 4:20-7:30-10:20 Sat 11:55-2:30-5:05-7:45-10:30 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:20 Mon 7:10-9:50 Tue 4:20-7:30-10:20 Wed 1:15-7:10-9:50 Thu 7:10-9:50 Fri 4:20-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:20-7-9:45 Mon 7:45 Tue 4:20-7-9:45 Wed 7:45 Thu 8

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Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:35 Sat 4:50-7:45-10:35 Sun 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:35-10:30
Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
Escape From Planet Earth (PG) Fri 12:10-2:30-5-7:25-9:50 Sat 11:10-1:20-3:35-5:50-8:05-10:20 Sun 12:10-2:30-5-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:10-5:40-7:55-10:10
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30-4:55-7:30-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:05
A Good Day to Die Hard: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:25 No Passes Thu 12:30-3-5:30-7:45
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:25-5:40-7:45-10:15
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:10-8:05-10:35 Mon-Tue 12:35-3-5:30-8-10:30 Wed 5:30-8-10:30 Thu 12:35-3-5:30-8-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Jack the Giant Slayer: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Life of Pi (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:25-7:10-10 Wed 1:05-4-10 Thu 1:30-4:25-7:10-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Sat 12
Safe Haven (PG) Fri 12-2:40-5:15-8:10-10:40 Sat 11:55-2:40-5:15-8:10-10:40 Sun 12-2:40-5:15-8:10-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:40-10:25
Scooby-Doo (G) Sat 11
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:55-5:25-8:15-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:35-10:05
Snitch (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:20-4-7:20-10:15
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-2:45-5:20-7:40-10:20 Mon-Tue 1-3:20-5:35-7:50-10:20 Wed 3:20-5:35-7:50-10:20 Thu 1-3:20-5:35-7:50-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

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Rihanna and Chris Brown

They found love in a hopeless place?

So much for those break-up rumours. Rihanna is celebrating her 25th birthday this week by escaping to Hawaii with Chris Brown by her side. The birthday girl posted a photo to Instagram of her smiling self perched on Brown's lap in the back of a limo.

They were also spotted seaside in Honolulu, according to E! News. "Chris was leading Rihanna by the hand," a source says of their brief beach walk. "She was puffing on something as she walked and seemed very relaxed and happy.

Her hair was blowing and she twirled around. She looked totally free and like she was really enjoying her birthday. Chris was protective and made sure to hold her hand as they walked."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Shia LaBeouf ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

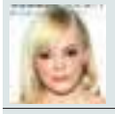
The LaBeouf rebuff

Shia LaBeouf has exited what would have been his Broadway debut — in a revival of Orphans alongside Alec Baldwin — less than a month before previews were to begin, but there's been plenty of drama since he quit.

LaBeouf, who is rather new to Twitter, decided to use the social-networking site to publish emails between himself, Baldwin, director Daniel Sullivan and co-star Tom Sturridge that all suggest some sort of squabble between LaBeouf and Baldwin that precipitated his exit. "I'm too old for disagreeable situations," Sullivan writes in an email to LaBeouf. "You're one hell of a great actor. Alec is who he is. You are who you are. You two are incompatible. I should have known it. This one will haunt me. You tried to warn me. You said you were a different breed. I didn't get it."

Twitter

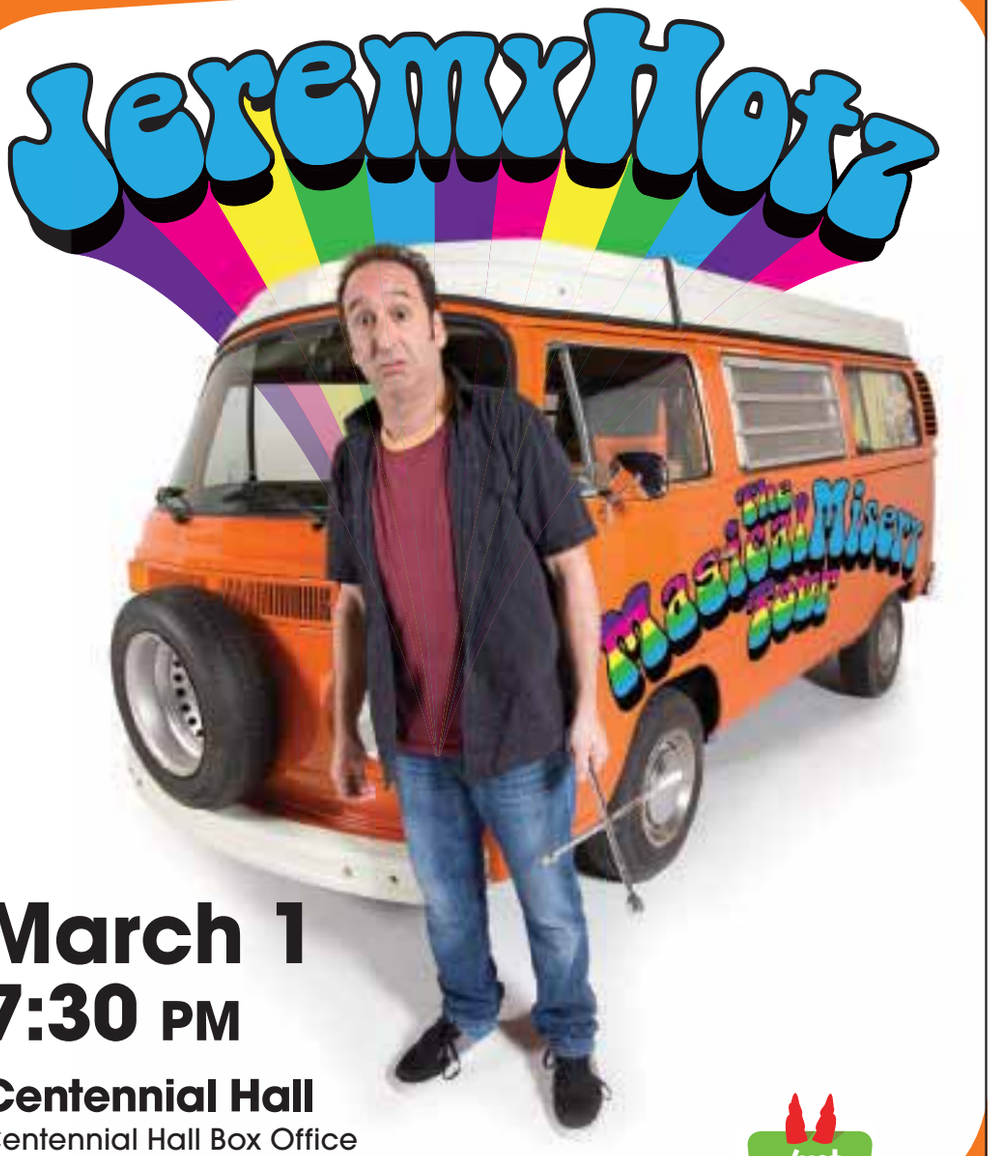
@JuddApatow
Beasts of the Southern Wild is the only movie I have felt the need to watch multiple times this year. That and Stories We Tell.


@rosemcgowan
My nurse is terrifying. I actually need a pain pill, but I'm too scared to ask. #andihatepills

@johncusack
Enough of these silly jousting games I play -I grow weary

@bobsaget
Watched Lincoln on the movie thing on the plane~ the flight was five minutes shorter than the film. Missed the ending. I'm rooting for him.

NEXT WEEK!



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Party bites worthy of an Academy Award

Canapes may sound stuffy, but they actually are the ultimate in ease when it comes to party food. Plus, they look great and can be combined in endless ways to suit any taste.

So here is simple formula for making canapes: divide them into four components — bases, spreads, toppings and garnishes. For each canape, all you do is select one item from each category, then assemble. And the easiest way to assemble enough for a party is to set out all of your ingredients (clustered by category), then just start selecting and building.

If you're planning on an Oscars viewing party, you might even consider turning the making of the canapes into a pre-party. Set out everything on the counter, pour some wine and invite a few guests to come early and help assemble (and sample, of course).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Each spread recipe makes enough to top 24 canapes. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bases

- 24 multigrain crackers
- 24 thin slices of seedless cucumber
- 24 toasted baguette slices
- 24 purchased phyllo cups (found in the grocer's freezer section)

Spreads

Zesty Barbecue
- 3 tbsp barbecue sauce
- 2 tbsp red pepper jelly
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- Splash of hot sauce

1. In bowl, stir ingredients.

Orange Sweet Potato
- 1 sweet potato, microwaved until fork-tender
- 2 tbsp orange marmalade
- 1 tbsp cider vinegar
- Salt, black pepper

1. Peel potato and mash in bowl. Stir in marmalade and vinegar. Season with salt and pepper.

Toppers

- Small cooked and peeled shrimp
- Shredded cooked chicken
- Halved cherry tomatoes
- Crab meat
- Small wedges of manchego cheese

Garnishes

- Shaved Parmesan cheese
- Sliced green and black olives
- Sliced hot peppers (such as piri piri or Peppadew)
- Sliced scallions

To assemble the canapes, arrange the bases on a large serving tray. Top each with a small dollop of one of the spreads. Press one of the topping choices into the spread, then finish each with a garnish.

Liquid Assets

And the best drink goes to...

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

With the Oscar's awarded this Sunday, here are my picks for the right booze to match with each of the best picture nominees.

Les Misérables
Victor Hugo was French, loved Paris, and Paris loves the wines of Bordeaux. Go Right Bank, where merlot rules and the wines are softer and easier drinking.

Zero Dark Thirty
Osama bin Laden may have abstained, but his American hunters probably enjoyed a shot of Bourbon. Try a robust, single barrel version.

Life of Pi
I'd go with a sweeter white riesling from Germany. It likes pie.

Django Unchained
This spaghetti western, à la Tarantino, deserves a nice Italian red made with the sangiovese grape from Tuscany's Chianti region.

Lincoln
Daniel Day-Lewis is a Brit, and Lincoln had more than enough reasons to take a drink. Together they make a strong case for a full-bodied English (or U.S.) ale.

Argo
Though it's sour grapes for the Academy for leaving its helmsman off the best director list, I'm betting Ben Affleck will be drinking some bubbly, like Moët & Chandon's non-vintage Brut Imperial champagne ($60.75 to $65), when his flick wins best picture.

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Ontario

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.

MIX OF SIX
Julian Uzielli
london@metronews.ca

Art and Value

What gives art value? That's the question the Michael Gibson Gallery seeks to answer this month with the exhibition Art and Value. The show features work by artists whose art has hung in the gallery before, with each artist or work displayed representing one of the gallery's seven chosen criteria for what gives art value: the artist's education, exhibition history, critical acknowledgment, public collections, commercial success, originality and quality. There is an open house tomorrow from 2 to 4 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIE KRAEHLING

The best in Canadian film

Despite what Hollywood might have you believe, a lot of great films get made in Canada, and 12 of the best will be shown at Museum London next week. From Feb. 28 to March 3, the museum will host the Domestic Arrivals Festival of Canadian Film, showcasing the top picks from the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. Highlights include Cosmopolis, directed by David Cronenberg, and War Witch (Rebelle), nominated for an Oscar for best foreign language film. Tickets are $10, with bulk discounts available. museumlondon.ca/films.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MATTHEW THOMAS

Bombing the McIntosh Gallery

Yarn bombing, that is. On Thursday, 61 art students at Western will descend upon the on-campus art gallery amid a flurry of needles and wool to wrap trees in brightly coloured cosies. Known as yarn bombing, the outdoor installation will coincide with the opening of the gallery's Secret Stash exhibition, which takes a hard look at our consumer culture through the work of four artists. The yarn bombing will commence at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, and the reception for Secret Stash is at 8 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE FINKELSTEIN

Trivia for a worthy PAWS

Have you had your pet spayed or neutered? Tuesday is the 20th anniversary of the Humane Society's World Spay Day, and to celebrate PAWS is hosting an animal-themed trivia night at The Dawghouse Pub & Eatery at 699 Wilkins St. on Tuesday. A $15 ticket will enter you into the competition and includes snacks and door prizes and all proceeds from ticket sales will help PAWS set up a new high-volume spay/neuter clinic in London. For tickets email info@pet-nanny.ca.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PAWS LONDON

Sessions for Songwriters

This Saturday is the last Saturday of the month, so if you're a songwriter that means it's time to dust off your guitar or kazoo and head to the monthly song writing workshop held by the Home County Folk League. Musicians of all abilities are welcome to the session, which includes group writing exercises, song sharing and peer feedback — just bring your instrument and your songs. The workshop runs from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Marsha Bishop Auditorium in the London Public Library branch at 167 Wortley Rd.

PHOTO BY JULIAN UZIELLI

Choral collab

Amabile Choirs of London are celebrating their 23rd annual festival this weekend at Centennial Hall. The music education program is made up of 300 singers in eight separate choirs and the annual concert is the only time each year when all the choirs perform together. The theme of this year's festival is An Amabile Fiesta, and it will be led by guest conductor Dr. Cristian Grases. Showtime is 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are $25 at amabile.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HARDING

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF LEARNING

The Dr. Mary J. Wright University Laboratory School is celebrating its 40th year. Wright started the school in the Psychology Department of Western University in 1973. As a pioneer of Early Childhood Education research in Canada, she saw the value in studying children in a university setting, training teachers and providing a superb preschool education.

Thousands of preschool children between the ages of 2 and 6 have attended the school. There have also been thousands of undergraduate students who have benefited from learning about child development and early education in this unique setting.

The school is equipped with one-way mirrors so students can be observed without interfering with their education. Many students from both Western and Fanshawe College also do placements in the classroom.

Wright is retired from the Psychology Department, but still maintains an interest in the school at the age of 97.

KIDS RELAX WITH YOGA

Children learn yoga quite easily because their minds are curious and open to new ideas. Yoga is becoming more common in elementary schools while school physical education programs evolve to explore different avenues of exercise.

Paul McQuillan, owner of Bikram Yoga Centre says, "With an epidemic of juvenile diabetes fueled by poor diet and made even worse by a new generation of computer- and cellphone-addicted children, it's no wonder that children are suffering from poor health and reclusive behaviour."

Teaching children yoga encourages them to become more aware of their bodies – from controlling their breathing to maintaining good posture. Such simple notions are powerful learning tools that can be used to counteract and slow down the increasingly rapid habits that technology causes.

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GROWING like a TALL tree

BRANDON PRUST'S GAME DAY PLAN

Brandon Prust, former London Knight and current NHL player with the Montreal Canadiens shares his game day eating and exercise schedule:

BREAKFAST
Eggs and granola

EXERCISE
Morning skate and warm-up

LUNCH
Pasta chicken, green salad

SNACKS
Peanut butter and jam on toast a few hours before the game, protein shakes and Energybits before and after games. Visit www.energybits.com and use the discount code 'PRUST' to get a 15 per cent discount

EXERCISE
Lift weights after games, not before games to maintain strength and conditioning

TREATING HEAD LICE

For personal treatment of your child's head lice, Lice Squad provides at-home help. Trained technicians use a non-pesticide treatment and special tools to treat the problem. They also train parents to carry on the procedures until the problem is gone.

Treatment begins with Lice Squad's Nitpicker's Secret, a concentrated enzyme that's mixed with hair conditioner. A special comb, tweezers and other tools are then used to remove the nits. The process takes about an hour.

After Lice Squad's visit, combing for about 10 to 20 minutes every other day, for about two weeks, can be continued by parents. Parents should also vacuum anywhere that their child's head might rest such as a couch, car seat and bed. Contact the Lice Squad at 519.473.4078 or licesquad.com.

KIDS LEARN TO RAP

Rap music is a powerful medium for expressing yourself and sharing your message with others. The Rap Camp at the Nancy Campbell Collegiat Institute offers a hands-on, interactive program that guides students through the basics of rhythm, music theory, word play and song writing, culminating in a recording session at Canada's best recording studio in Toronto.

The Rap Camp runs Monday, March 11 to Friday, March 15 for $350, or on Saturday, March 16 for $100. Visit facebook.com/Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute and click on Events.

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Summer Intensives

Summer Glee: July 8-12
Ensemble and solo performance, vocal, musical and dramatic coaching, staging and choreography.

Arts Array: July 15-19
Silk screen, sculpture, sketching, painting and digital art.

Shakespeare To Die For: July 22-26
Guerilla theatre in the streets with scenes from tragedies, theatre games and techniques.

mashup kids
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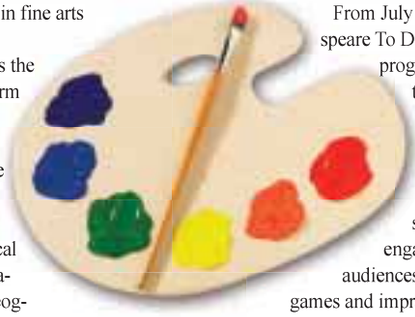
KIDS ENJOY FINE ARTS

This summer Mashup Kids has programs designed for students interested in fine arts training.

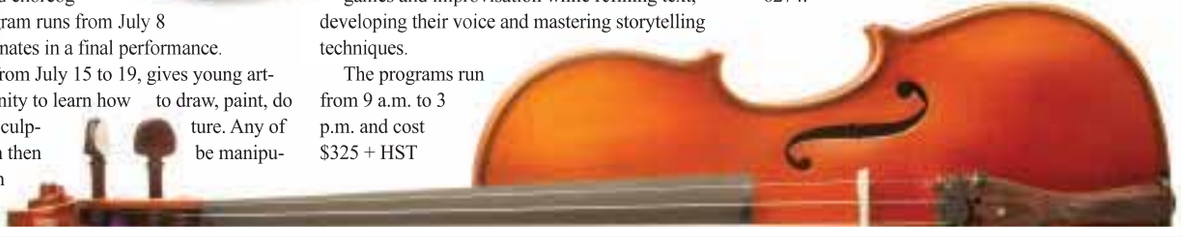
Summer Glee opens the season. Participants form a show choir and have solos assigned according to their vocal range and maturity. They receive coaching for vocal technique, musical and dramatic interpretation, staging and choreography. The program runs from July 8 to 12 and culminates in a final performance.



Arts Array, from July 15 to 19, gives young artists the opportunity to learn how to draw, paint, do silkscreen and sculpture. Any of this artwork can then be manipulated digitally in the computer design class that ends each day.

From July 22 to 26, Shakespeare To Die For, is a theatre program that takes to the streets. Innovative staging of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies includes spontaneous engagement with audiences. Actors experiment with theatre games and improvisation while refining text, developing their voice and mastering storytelling techniques.

The programs run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and cost $325 + HST each. Visit www.mashupkids.com or call 519-601-6274.



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Offer(s) available on select new 2013 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by February 28, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,650, $34 tire recycling/filter charges, $5 OMVIC fee, environmental fee and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ‘‘0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Sorento LX + AT (SR75BD) with a selling price of $29,078 financed at 0% APR for 60 months. 130 bi-weekly payments equal $224 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. ¥3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease any new 2013 Sorento from a participating dealer between February 1–28, 2013. Customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $550 per month or can choose up to $1,650 reductions from the selling/lease price after taxes. See your dealer for complete details. Offer ends February 28, 2013. Cannot be combined with “Don’t Pay for 90 Days” offer. *“Don’t Pay For 90 Days” offer (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on select new 2012/2013 models. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After 90 days, interest accrues and the purchaser will repay both the principal and interest monthly over the contract’s term. ^Bi-weekly finance payment O.A.C for new 2013 Sorento LX AT FWD (SR75BD) based on a selling price of $29,078 is $159 with an APR of 1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period with a $0 down payment or equivalent trade. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,151 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ^Lease offer available on approved credit on new 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX AT (SP752D) is based on monthly payments of $272 [includes lease savings (lease credit) of $500] for 48 months at 1.9% with a $3,000 down payment/equivalent trade, security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $16,830 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $10,048. Lease has 16,000 km/year allowance and $0.12/km for excess kilometres (other packages available). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may lease for less. See dealer for full details. ◄Cash purchase price for 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D) is $19,983 and includes a cash savings of $4,000 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers). Retailer may sell for less. ‡$4,000 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible new 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D) from a participating dealer between February 1–28, 2013. Cash savings is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Some conditions apply. The 2013 Kia Optima is the 17th annual winner of the ICOTY as presented by Road & Travel Magazine©. ▲Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD 7-seater (SR75XD)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX with Navigation (SP759D)/2013 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748D) is $43,045/$35,550/$42,745 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650/$1,650/$1,455, environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. ^ Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Optima 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada’s approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

NHL

Burke returns to Ducks as scout

Brian Burke joined the Anaheim Ducks as a part-time scout Thursday, a little over a month after he was fired as president and general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"Any time you can add a person of his quality to your staff, it makes your organization better," Ducks GM Bob Murray said in a statement. "We've had success working together before and look forward to doing it again."

Burke returns to Anaheim where he was the Ducks' executive vice-president and GM from 2005-08. Over his three-plus seasons with the organization, the Ducks captured their first Stanley Cup in 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brian Burke THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Raps get guard Telfair from Suns

The Toronto Raptors acquired Phoenix point guard Sebastian Telfair ahead of Thursday's 3 p.m. trade deadline, according to multiple reports.

The Raptors sent centre Hamed Haddadi — who never played for Toronto — and a conditional second-round pick to the Suns.

The deal gives Toronto a third point guard, joining Kyle Lowry and John Lucas.

The 27-year-old Telfair is averaging 6.0 points and 2.5 assists this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays catchers, from left, J.P. Arencibia, Josh Thole and Henry Blanco chat on Thursday before a drill during baseball spring training in Dunedin, Fla. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arencibia OK not catching Dickey

MLB. Jays No. 1 catcher wants to catch knuckleballer but says it's not up to him

Quoted

"Obviously you want to play every day, but you know you can't. And knowing that you can't, if that's the blow you get, that's the blow you get."

Blue Jays catcher J.P. Arencibia on the likelihood that he won't be catching pitches from R.A. Dickey during the regular season.

Historically, not much importance should be given to playing time or statistics at spring training.

So while starting catcher J.P. Arencibia will be behind the plate for R.A. Dickey's first start in a Blue Jays uniform on Monday against the Red Sox, it's likely that by the time the regular season starts, Henry Blanco or Josh Thole will be his personal catcher.

This had the makings of the Jays' first true controversy of the spring, but Arencibia quickly tried to head it off.

"In this day and age, nobody catches 162 games," Arencibia said philosophically. "I'll be back there four out of five, regardless who it is. It's just more finding what works for the team."

But when the Jays traded for Dickey, Arencibia touched bases with the knuckleballing right-hander. He asked the defending NL Cy Young winner and fellow Nashville resident to play catch a couple of times per week so he could get used to the unpredictable dancing of Dickey's bread-and-butter pitch.

Arencibia has continued to work with him in bullpen sessions and they are both on Team USA at the upcoming WBC, though Joe Mauer is the No. 1 for the American team.

"I've shown that I can catch (the knuckler), I know I can catch it," Arencibia said. "For me, I want to play every game and I feel like I could play every one. But that's the nature of the game. That's not my decision."

Most durable starting catchers are behind the plate for about 130 games out of the 162 in the regular season. Thus, if Dickey makes his 34-36 starts and if another catcher is assigned to corral his knuckleball every five days, then Arencibia claims he is philosophical about the possibility.

There is a side issue here. The Jays have sold out opening night at the Rogers Centre on April 2 with Dickey pitching. And manager John Gibbons said on Wednesday that if the decision is to give Dickey a personal catcher, then that's the lineup they will go with.

"Opening day's special, obviously," Arencibia admitted. "You always want to be a part of opening day. Again, selfishly, you could be worried about it. If that's the best lineup for that day, that's the best lineup for that day."

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Patrick steers clear of danger to keep Daytona 500 pole position

NASCAR. Female driver plays it safe in the first 150-mile Budweiser Duel, finishes 17th out of 23

Danica Patrick stands in the garage during practice for the NASCAR Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300 at Daytona International Speedway on Thursday in Daytona Beach, Fla. JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY IMAGES

Her car led the field to green, then Danica Patrick never gave herself a chance to race for the win at Daytona.

She's saving that all-out push for the Daytona 500.

Patrick had an easy choice in her first race since winning the pole for The Great American Race. She played it safe and stayed back Thursday, keeping her pole position for the Daytona 500.

All Patrick needed to do was keep her car intact to preserve the top spot for Sunday's Daytona 500. She started on the pole for the first 150-mile Budweiser Duel before she faded into the field and finished 17th out of 23 cars.

"I suppose there's a sense of relief" she kept the pole, Patrick said. "But at the same point in time, I'm a race-car driver, and it's not fun to have to protect and be careful and be cautious and drop back at times."

Patrick was nowhere near the four-lap sprint to the finish that saw Kevin Harvick hold off Greg Biffle for the win.

Patrick became the first woman in history to win a pole in NASCAR's Sprint Cup series. Team owner Gene Haas even suggested — perhaps, jokingly — that Patrick start and park after two laps and save the car.

No driver has won the Daytona 500 from the pole since Dale Jarrett in 2000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Playing favourites

Harvick no longer an underdog

Perfect so far at Speedweeks, Kevin Harvick has positioned himself as the favourite to win the Daytona 500.

It's the last label he wanted.

"We like to be the lame-duck underdog. That's what we're shooting for," Harvick said.

Harvick won the first Daytona 500 qualifying race on Thursday to make it 2-for-2 at Daytona International Speedway, where he also won an exhibition race last weekend. It positions Harvick, the 2007 Daytona 500 winner, as a top contender in Sunday's season-opening Great American Race.

Homan suffers her first loss at Scotties

Ontario skip Rachel Homan reacts after missing a shot against Manitoba's Jennifer Jones at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Thursday in Kingston. The battle of the final two unbeaten teams was won by Jones, 9-7. Through 12 draws, Jones sat atop the standings with an 8-0 record, while Homan was 7-1.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stage is set for Rousey to shine in UFC's first women's bout

Ronda Rousey has an Olympic judo medal, an undeniable personal magnetism and a merciless string of victories in her short mixed-martial-arts career.

Now she's finally got a showcase worthy of her talent.

Rousey and Liz Carmouche will make history Saturday night at Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif., when they meet in the first women's bout in UFC history. They're the main event at UFC 157, and Rousey is the star of the latest pay-per-view show put on by MMA's dominant promotion.

Déjà vu

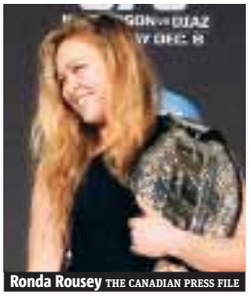
6

Ronda Rousey has won all six of her professional MMA fights by armbar submission in the first round.

It's a scenario that was fairly unimaginable even a year ago in the UFC, which never had a women's division and showed scant interest in that version of the sport. Rousey and her fellow fighters have created believers at every level of MMA in the past few years, culminating in this breakthrough onto its biggest stage.

"These are things that needed to be done for a very long time now, and I didn't think that waiting for somebody else to do it was the wisest thing to do," Rousey said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Ronda Rousey THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Rules are meant to be broken, especially if they were made in someone else's favour. The bottom line is that your own needs come first. If that means going too far in some people's eyes, well, so be it.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Not everyone is as careful and conscientious as you and there is a real possibility that a mistake has been made. It may not be a serious one but it could affect you in some way, so check other people's work.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is one particular thing that needs your full and undivided attention today. You know what it is and you know you will have to focus hard if you are going to succeed. Don't let anything distract you.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Honesty is essential, even if it means that a long-standing friendship is put to the test. You may be tempted to avoid the truth to spare someone's feelings but in the long-term it will do more harm than good.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone needs to keep a clear head today and that someone has to be you. Others may get emotional but you must insist on common sense all the way down the line, for their sake as well as your own.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There are so many changes going on that you probably can't keep track of them all. Don't worry. Most of them will work in your favour. One warning though: Don't make promises you may not be able to keep.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Certain duties may be a pain but you know they have to be done. Even with its petty annoyances this could be a positive time for you. Show people that you can be trusted to work on your own.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something you had a hard time getting your head around yesterday will be as clear as crystal today. No doubt you will mentally kick yourself for being so dense but don't worry about it. You're allowed an off day now and again.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The first step in resolving a problem is to admit that it exists, so stop making excuses and face the reality of your present situation. The moment you do that is the moment the answers start coming.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something is worrying you but you can't put your finger on what it might be. Whatever it is the planets suggest it's not worth the effort, so focus on more pleasant thoughts. Don't let worry become a habit.

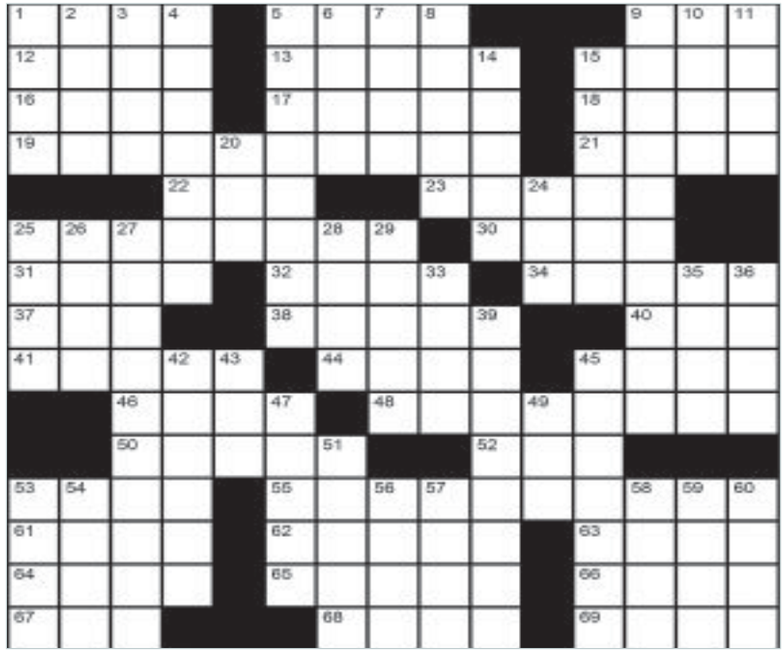
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A new path is beckoning and all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other and start walking. Just do it, otherwise you'll find all sorts of reasons to stay where you are.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you have an important decision to make today, you must take your time and get it right. If people press you to decide right away you can bet there is more in it for them than there is for you.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

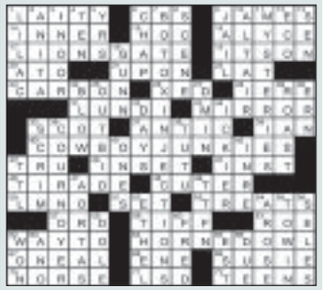
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Slightly open
5. Switch
9. "Skedaddle!"
12. __ Modern (London, England art gallery)
13. French painter Edouard
15. Ben Affleck movie up for Best Picture
16. Aesir ruler
17. Solo
18. Subj. with maps
19. This year's Oscars host, Seth __
21. Actor Jared
22. Soak flax
23. Actor Mr. Hawke
25. Great Lake
30. Elegant instrument
31. Get _ __ deal
32. "Ghostbusters" (1984) character, Dr. __ Spengler
34. Bit of an '80s Bonnie Tyler hit: "I __ _ hero..."
37. Greek†alphabet's 19th letter
38. "Sexy __" by The Beatles
40. Help
41. Daytime's DeGeneres
44. "A Beautiful __" (2001)
45. "Behold!" to Brutus
46. Radar signal
48. Those up for Oscars
50. Speedy
52. Texter's "Are you serious?!"
53. Squabble
55. Item on Wolfgang Puck's Governors Ball menu for the Oscars: __ __ with Pesto and Grilled Vegetables
61. Actress Ms. Russo
62. Blatant
63. British playwright, __ Coward
64. Mrs. Lincoln's maiden name
65. Clown in the opera Pagliacci
66. Prefix that means 'Within'
67. Fire or Army
68. Cable sports channel
69. Chair

Down
1. Bit of matter
2. Will Smith's wife
3. Suffix with 'Problem'
4. Holt __ (Swanky retailer)
5. Colourful candies
6. Partition
7. Old World buffalo
8. Type of pasta
9. Environmental activism group
10. "_ __ Stung" by Elvis Presley
11. "Is that for here or __ __?" (Fast food query)
14. Pre red carpet appointment, __ whitening
15. Dazzling
20. Irish airline, __ Lingus
24. Harrison Ford role, __ Solo
25. Fully satisfy
26. __ Mountains (Range in Russia)
27. "Canadian Man" country singer: 2 wds.
28. Old Irish alphabet [var. sp.]
29. Sculptor of The Thinker
33. El __ (Warm ocean current)
35. Board game pieces
36. Lemony drinks
39. Alberta city
42. Joyful
43. __-and-tuck
45. Search __ (Google, and others)
47. Basketball court maneuver
49. Pixie
51. Bell Biv __ (Music group)
53. Title for a Miss, in Spanish [abbr.]
54. Hireling
56. Mil. titles
57. "What _ __ off!" (It's too expensive)
58. No-fly, for one
59. Catherine __-Jones
60. Frequently: 2 wds.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	8		4	9	1		2	
4								8
		6				7		
8	2		1		6		3	7
				3				
6	3		9		7		5	4
		8				5		
3								2
	1		8	4	5		6	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	8	3	2	4	6	9	5
4	6	3	1	9	5	7	2	8
2	9	5	8	7	6	1	4	3
9	4	2	7	5	8	3	6	1
7	5	6	9	1	3	2	8	4
3	8	1	6	4	2	9	5	7
5	1	7	2	8	9	4	3	6
6	2	4	5	3	7	8	1	9
8	3	9	4	6	1	5	7	2

Read metro work every Monday and Wednesday for tips and trends in education and employment.

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The "Red Neck" Corner

Red Neck Photo of the Week

Red Neck Measuring Tape

Think you can top this picture? Send in your best red neck photo to: patrick@401auto.ca for a chance to win the monthly prize.

"YOU ARE ONLY 20 MINS AWAY FROM SAVINGS!"

Patrick Taylor

Jason Leuszler

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Red Neck Joke of the Week

You are a red neck if...

You prefer car keys over q-tips

K	B	L	E	G	R	E	Q	N	E	R	I	F	T
Z	A	B	I	L	P	G	U	I	T	A	R	I	S
H	N	M	T	G	C	C	Z	O	Y	M	P	T	W
D	J	U	E	N	H	Y	N	W	O	L	U	R	O
H	O	S	Y	S	I	T	C	R	J	I	T	A	L
E	Q	I	D	U	R	A	S	R	U	F	N	I	L
C	O	C	G	R	V	E	P	O	O	R	E	L	A
N	G	G	D	N	A	B	K	B	P	T	T	E	M
A	N	U	N	V	I	O	L	A	C	M	O	R	H
D	I	S	D	I	K	K	B	X	E	K	N	M	S
E	P	D	S	O	M	E	I	Y	J	P	U	J	R
N	M	B	M	Z	Z	M	F	B	E	O	S	T	A
I	A	C	U	T	V	W	I	I	E	K	I	H	M
L	C	J	R	I	T	T	Q	W	L	H	N	Y	I
J	K	D	D	S	H	O	R	E	S	C	A	K	J

Band
Banjo
Biking
Camping
Drums
Fire
Guitar
Hike
Keyboard
Lights
Line Dance
Marshmallows
Motorcycle
Music
Paint
Smores
Speakers
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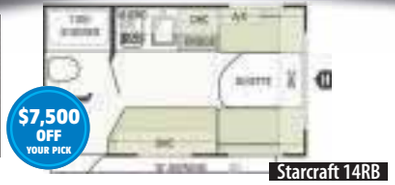
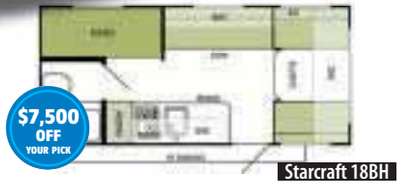
14' - 18' Trailers



Starcraft 14RB

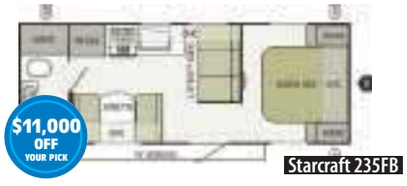
Starcraft 17RD



Starcraft 18BH

21' - 27.8' Trailers

Starcraft 21FB



Starcraft 235FB

Starcraft 278BH

29.5' - 32' Trailers

Wilderness 29500K

Wilderness 3175RE

33' - 35' Trailer

North Trail 33TBUD

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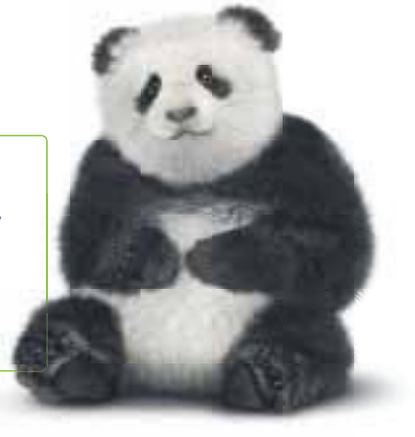

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*Regular 3 year term pricing for the Rugby LTE is $49, for the Galaxy S III is $159, and for the Galaxy Note II is $199. Pricing and availability may vary. †Plans are available with activations and renewals and not as a rate plan change. As a result of the plans having shareable data, data notifications will not work on these plans. ‡Long distance voice service not included. Voice services used while roaming in the US are charged at a rate of $1.50/minute. Rates for voice services used while roaming outside of Canada and the US vary by country. See telusmobility.com/travel for details. Premium and subscription messages are not included. An additional 35¢ charge will apply for each text message or attachment sent outside of Canada and the US. Text messages sent or received while roaming internationally will be charged at 60¢/message. Customers with devices not able to display picture or video messages will receive a text message that includes a web address for viewing. Multimedia messaging used while outside of Canada is charged as data roaming. **For smartphones on rate plans with shareable data. TELUS, the TELUS logo and telusmobility.com are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. Samsung and Samsung Galaxy are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Canada, Inc. and/or its related entities used with permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2013 TELUS.